

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-49, 51, 52, and 54 are pending, with claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 17, 27, 37, 47, 49, and 51 being independent. Claims 17-46 were previously withdrawn and claims 3, 6, and 53 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 47, 49, and 51 have been amended; claim 50 has been canceled; and claim 54 has been added. Support for the amendments and new claim can be found in the originally filed specification, at least at page 13, line 2 to page 16, line 11 and Figs. 1-4. No new matter has been added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7-16, 51, and 52 are allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 47-49 have been rejected as being indefinite. Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because these claims have been amended to correct and clarify the language. In particular, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to delete the language "wherein the transistor feeds the second current to the load." Claims 4 and 47 have been amended to recite that "a third current flows to the load when the first switch and the second switch are turned off" (claim 4) and a third current is fed "to a load through the transistor while the gate terminal of the transistor is kept at the second potential when the first switch and the second switch are turned off" (claim 47). The Examiner has also indicated that claims 4 and 49 are indefinite because "a third current" is allegedly not seen in the drawings. Applicant points to Fig. 4, which shows the third current as a dashed line. Claims 47 and 48 have been amended to recite that current is fed "between the source and the drain of" the transistor.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4, and 47-49 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0008543 (Nasu). Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because Nasu fails to describe or suggest first and second switches connected to a transistor, and a second current source electrically connected to the second switch, as recited in claims 1 and 4, and feeding a

second current between the source and the drain of a transistor through a second switch so that the gate terminal of the transistor has a second potential, as recited in claims 47 and 49.

Nasu relates to a circuit having a voltage source 1, a current source 2, a capacitor 3, a source follower 4 with its gate supplied with the voltage of the capacitor 3, and a capacitive load 6 connected to the source of the source follower 4. See Nasu at paragraph 0035 and Fig. 1. However, as the Examiner agrees, Nasu's circuit does not include a second current source. Moreover, Nasu's circuit does not feed a second current between the source and the drain of the source follower 4 through a second switch so that the gate of the source follower 4 has a second potential. Nasu's circuit is void of any switches that are electrically connected to the source follower 4. See Nasu at Fig. 1.

For at least these reasons, claims 1, 4, 47, and 49 are allowable over Nasu, as is dependent claim 48.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 5 have been rejected as being obvious over Nasu. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 because, as discussed above, Nasu fails to describe or suggest first and second switches that are electrically connected to a transistor, and a second current source electrically connected to a second switch, as recited in claim 2. In Nasu's circuit, no switches are electrically connected to the source follower 4, and only a first current source 5 is present and the first current source 5 is not connected to a switch. For at least these reasons, claim 2 is allowable over Nasu.

Claim 5 depends from claim 4, which was rejected as being anticipated by Nasu. As discussed above, Nasu fails to describe or suggest first and second switches connected to a transistor, and a second current source electrically connected to the second switch, as recited in claim 4. Moreover, because there is no suggestion to do so, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Nasu to add these features to Nasu's circuit. Accordingly, claim 4 is allowable over Nasu, as is dependent claim 5.

Claim 51

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview on January 25, 2007, in which the undersigned requested clarification regarding the status of claim 51. In particular, the undersigned noted that claim 51 includes the language "wherein the transistor feeds the second current to the load," which is the same language that was found in claim 1 and is language the Examiner has indicated was misdescriptive. Applicant has amended claim 51 to remove this language, and applicant believes that the amendment to claim 51 does not impact the allowability of claim 51.

New Claim 54

New claim 54 depends from claim 49, and is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 49 is allowable.

Conclusion

In conclusion, all claims are in condition for allowance. The fee in the amount of \$120 for payment of a one-month extension of time is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06 1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 26, 2007

/Diana DiBerardino/

Diana DiBerardino

Reg. No. 45,653

Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331